

Fort Leavenworth,
Building # 17
22 Sumner Place
Leavenworth
Leavenworth County
Kansas

HABS No. KS-53-N

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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

FORT LEAVENWORTH, BUILDING # 17
(OLD POST COMMANDER'S RESIDENCE)

HABS NO. KS-53-N

Location: 20-22 Sumner Place, Fort Leavenworth, Leavenworth County, Kansas

USGS Leavenworth Kans.-Mo. Quadrangle, Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: 15.334780.4357980

Present Owner: U. S. Department of the Army

Present Occupants: 20 Sumner: Col. Alvaro S. G. Escobar of Brazil;
22 Sumner: Lt. Col. and Mrs. Jayme Taddei of Brazil

Present Use: Two quarters for colonels or lieutenant colonels and their families.

Significance: The former Post Commander's Residence possesses considerable significance both historically and architecturally. It symbolizes the connection of the post in the 1830's and 1840's with the First Dragoons (Cavalry) Regiment, one of the leading forces used by the U. S. Army to explore routes west, keep peace among Indian tribes, and protect settlers. It also was headquarters for efforts by the Army during the 1850's to uphold federal law during the "Bloody Kansas" conflict. During the 1880's, Building # 17 became the residence of the commandants of the new School of Application for Cavalry and Infantry, now the Command and General Staff College and a center for entertainment for officers of the school.

Architecturally, Building # 17 is the oldest brick building in Kansas and one of the oldest brick structures west of Kansas City. Its design is a rare surviving mixture of Federal era and Greek Revival details. Its wooden pegged interior structure is one of the oldest such structures extant in the Plains region.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: Building # 17 was erected between 1838 and 1840. Correspondence from 1836 to 1838 of Col. Stephen W. Kearny, the post commander, and Lt. Thomas Swords, the assistant quartermaster at the post, with Maj. T. Cross, Acting Quartermaster General, discusses plans for the quarters (see Consolidated Correspondence File (CCF), National Archives (NA), Record Group (RG) 92, Box 539),

while Louise Barry's The Beginning of the West notes the delivery in 1839 of brick for construction (p. 372).

2. Architect: Unknown. Col. Kearny's July 21, 1837 letter to Maj. Cross refers to his receipt from the Quartermaster General of a Plan of the Buildings to be erected at this Post. On the other hand, Kearny asked in the same letter for authority to "make some alteration in the Plan for the Comm'd. Officers Quarters." Of particular interest is his request for a porch:

I wish a Porch to extend along the whole front of the house, a very great comfort, and protection against the heat of the Summer, & the Storms of the Winter.

The colonel went on to describe other changes in the plan he desired, all of which in addition to the verandah correspond to the plan executed. Apparently then, the Quartermaster General's Office supplied the initial plan for Building # 17, and Kearny, probably with the advice of Lt. Swords, the post quartermaster, altered them to the configuration he wished (ibid).

The architects of the changes and additions made in the 1850's, 1870's, 1881, early 1890's, and c. 1905-15 are all unknown, although the minor nature of most of the changes probably meant that the post or Department of the Missouri quartermaster prepared the plans and submitted them for approval to the Quartermaster General's Office in Washington, D.C. An exception may have been the 1881 northeast addition to the main block; for something of its large size the Washington office possibly supplied plans.

3. Original and subsequent owners: Constructed and owned continuously by the U. S. Department of War, known since 1947 as the Department of the Army.
4. Builder, contractor, supplier: A letter from Col. Kearny to Maj. T. Cross of October 18, 1836 asks that "orders be given to the Asst. Quartermaster to erect by contract" a brick residence for the post commanding officer. The name of the contractor eventually retained is not known. The 1836 letter estimates that the cost would not exceed \$5,000. On December 31, 1838, Capt. Thomas Swords, the post quartermaster, contracted with G. S. Tuttle to deliver at Fort Leavenworth 1,000,000 "well-burned bricks" during the summer of 1839. Presumably part of the brick shipments were used to erect the commander's residence, as well as the two large dragoons barracks planned (see Barry, p. 372).

5. Original plans and construction: An undated nineteenth century water color elevation and plan of the Post Commander's Residence as originally designed as been found at the National Archives (Cartographic Division, Record Group 77). An 1839 "Map of Fort Leavenworth, and Its Reserve" contains near its lower edge a small drawing of the buildings around the Main Parade. A sketch of the commanding officer's residence appears in the drawing, much resembling the building as erected. It shows a two story house with single ridge roof, double chimneys connected by parapets on either end, and a two-tiered verandah on the facade.
6. Alterations and additions: The first major change to the residence was the reconstruction of the verandah of the facade, probably during the 1855-56 campaign of remodeling and reconstruction that occurred in those years at the post (see E. T. Carr, "Reminiscences Concerning Fort Leavenworth in 1855-56," pp. 375-83). Although the rough hewn joists and beams below the floor of the first tier were retained, new posts, floors, balustrades, and a double entry stairway were constructed (see Supplemental Material, Item # 1). Circumstantial evidence suggests the 1855-56 date. The square porch posts, with their widely spaced flutes and squared astragal moldings, plain frieze and ovolo abacuses is the same pattern as the porch posts on the facades of the surviving Syracuse Houses (Buildings # 20-# 21), definitely documented as 1855-56 constructions (see Carr, pp. ?).

Between 1869 and about 1881 (see 1869 and c. 1878-81 historical photographs, Supplemental Material, Items # 2 & # 3), several alterations were made. Originally, six over six double hung sash windows had appeared in both the first and second stories of the facade. Apparently during the 1870's, the first floor windows were lowered to floor length and given triple-hung sashes. The present, six-faceted bay windows were added during the same period to the basement and first story of the west and east elevations. The balustrade, or parapet built in c. 1855-56 above the cornice of the second tier of the facade verandah was removed. Two other c. 1878-81 historical photographs (Items # 3 & # 4) show that at some point a frame, clapboarded addition had been made to the rear of the residence, enclosing the first story tier of the rear verandah and extending beyond it slightly to the north and west.

In 1881, a two-story brick addition was erected adjoining the northeast corner of the original building (see HABS photos # KS-53-N-3 & 4). On each floor, it contained a library, kitchen, pantry, and servant's rooms. Probably at the same time, the frame section at the rear was removed, no

longer needed. After the post commanders left Building # 17 in 1890, the 1855-56 double entrance stairway was replaced with a single, frontal flight of stairs, with board balusters and square newel posts (see c. 1895 photograph, Supplemental Material Item # 5).

Larger changes occurred between 1905 and 1915, during the period of large scale expansion and reconstruction that accompanied the growth of the Army Service Schools at the post. A comparison of a c. 1905 photograph of the building with one taken about 1915 illustrates what transpired. To convert the first and second floors into separate field officer quarters, the previous single main entrance with its side lights, five-light transom, and eight-paneled door was replaced by the present double entrance of two doorways flanking a paneled central section. On the second story of the facade, the original central bay of a six over six window with side lights was replaced by the current doorway. Inside, the original interior stairways were removed from their position at the northwest corner of the central stairhall on each floor. To make the quarters separate from each other, a private stairway was constructed to the second story from the west entrance on the facade. Bathrooms were built in the space on the first and second floors formerly occupied by the interior stairways (see present floor plans, Supplemental Materials Items # 6 & 7).

B. Historical Context:

Building # 17 was erected as part of an expansion of the post at the end of the 1830's. Under Col. Stephen W. Kearny, the First Dragoons Regiment was responsible for exploring routes to the Rockies and points further west, patrolling the Santa Fe and Oregon Trails, and making peace among warring Indian nations of the Plains. In October, 1836, Kearny reported to Maj. T. Cross, the acting Quartermaster General, that existing barracks and officer's quarters were inadequate to provide regulation quarters allowances for the officers of the five dragoon companies he expected to winter at the post that year (Kearny to Cross, CCF, NA). During the next four years, quarters and barracks for six companies of dragoons and four of infantry were erected along the Main Parade (Kearny to Cross, July 21, 1837; Barry, p. 372).

The spacious commander's residence occupied a prominent position on the parade and its four stories of rooms allowed sufficient space for the Commander's quarters of four rooms, "the necessary offices" of the post, a kitchen, and servants quarters (Kearny to Cross, October 18, 1836). It seems likely that Kearny and his family occupied the second floor, while the offices of the post occupied the first floor. Servants undoubtedly lived in the

attic, while the kitchen, additional sleeping rooms, and storerooms probably were in the basement.

From its completion in 1839 or 1840 until the erection of the residence of the commander of the U. S. Army Ordnance Arsenal (now No. 1 Scott Avenue), the Post Commander's Residence was one of the most imposing buildings on the post, in accordance with the Army's custom of making the hierarchy of command obvious in the size and arrangement of buildings at each garrison. Percival Lowe, in his reminiscence about Fort Leavenworth in 1849, observed that the commanding officer's quarters "was the best building at the Post" (see Lowe, Five Years a Dragoon, p. 30).

The years of Building # 17's greatest importance probably occurred during the pre-Civil War era. A series of commanders who participated in notable campaigns occupied it until about 1860. Col. Stephen Kearny served as post commander from 1836 to 1841 and again from 1843 to 1844. During the Mexican War, he commanded American troops who conquered much of New Mexico, Arizona, and California. Col. Edwin V. Sumner, also colonel of the First Dragoons, served as commander several times between 1849 and 1856. To him fell the task of upholding federal law during the initial stages in 1855 and 1856 of the "Bloody Kansas" conflict between proponents of slavery and those supporting free status for the Kansas Territory. Immediately prior to Sumner's last appointment at the post, Col. Philip St. George Cooke, another noted dragoon and cavalry commander, served briefly as post commander. Brig. Gen. W. S. Harney, Commanding General of the Army's Department of the West, resided in the residence in 1857 and 1858, when Army troops were sent to assert federal control in Utah and to counter Indian attacks (Hunt, pp. 110-18; 223).

When the Army moved the headquarters of the Department of the Missouri to Fort Leavenworth, the commanding general took up residence in what is now Building # 5. The role of post commander declined in importance; a field grade officer exercising discretion of command was no longer needed. Hence, a series of captains alternated with lieutenant colonels and a few colonels in the commander's position during the 1860's and 1870's. In 1881, the commandant of the new School of Application for Cavalry and Infantry, Col. Elisha S. Otis, was designated also as post commander. The residence on the Main Parade resumed importance during the 1880's as one of the centers for entertaining officers associated with the new school. Cols. T. H. Ruger and A. McD. Cook succeeded Otis as commandants and residents of Building # 17. In 1890, with the departure of the Department of the Missouri to St. Louis, the commandants of the school moved from Building # 17 to No. 1 Scott Avenue, the residence vacated by the commanding general of the department (Hunt, p. 265). Since that time, Building # 17 has served as two field grade officer's quarters.

It is not known how long the residence has functioned as a double. As early as 1870, the Surgeon General's office in its Report on Barracks and Hospitals referred to the post commander's residence as a "large two-story double brick house, occupied usually by the commanding officer" (p. 285). During the years company officers held the commander's position, perhaps the suite of rooms on the first floor and basement were used for quarters of other officers of company rank. The double plan was made permanent between 1905 and 1915, when separate entrances and stairways were constructed for 20 & 22 Sumner Place.

The post commander's residence is significant historically on several counts. It illustrates in a relatively unaltered manner the type of residence considered suitable for the commander of a major frontier post of the late 1830's. It is further associated with several army officers who made important contributions to the development of the dragoons (cavalry) as part of Army operations and others who influenced political and social events in early Kansas. In addition, it is associated with the beginnings of the School of Application for Cavalry and Infantry, now the Command and General Staff College.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: Building # 17 is significant architecturally in several ways. It is believed to be the oldest surviving brick building in Kansas and is one of the oldest brick structures erected by the U. S. Army west of St. Louis. The bricks were supplied by contract, but may have been fired nearby, making it also an early example of locally produced brick.

The building's design is an interesting mixture of details drawn from the American Federal period and the then-fashionable Greek Revival. The twin chimneys connected by brick parapets on either end of the main block and flat window arches composed of gauged brick are late uses of Federal motifs, while the simple geometrical trim of 20 Sumner and the pilaster and entablature formula of the fireplaces form links to the Greek idiom. The design is one of the oldest extant uses of either Federal or Greek Revival elements west of Kansas City.

Structurally, the materials and construction techniques of 1838-39 are visible and preserved in nearly original condition in the attic of Building # 17. Rough hewn posts and beams, plates, rafters, and joists are joined by

notching and locked in place by wooden pegs. Undoubtedly, this is one of the oldest examples of such joinery extant in the Plains region.

The smooth-faced, saw-cut ashlar foundation is also of interest. It is one of the earliest uses of limestone masonry with a carefully dressed surface in either the Western army posts or in civilian architecture of the area.

2. Condition of the fabric: The building overall appears to be in fair to good condition. The brick masonry has been damaged by sand-blasting and the drain pipe system appears to be leaking, causing erosion of mortar in the masonry. The brick parapet between the chimneys of the south elevation is in poor condition, with bricks pulling loose. Some deterioration of the wooden facade verandahs also is noticeable, caused by weathering.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: The two and a half story main block stands on a high basement and is about fifty feet wide (east-west) and forty-eight feet long (north-south). The facade is three bays wide. The northeast addition is two stories high and extends about fifty-one feet north and south; it is about twenty-two feet wide.
2. Foundations: The high foundation (seven and a half feet high at the southwest corner) of the main block is constructed of ashlar limestone blocks laid in regular courses. The stones are smooth-faced and appear to have been cut by a saw; the grains of the scoring run vertically. This contrasts with the hammered finish applied to pre-Civil War buildings at nearby Fort Riley, Kansas. The limestone probably is native Kansas stone quarried on post. At some point in the past, the foundation apparently was whitewashed; the yellow color associated with local stone can be seen at several points where the wash has worn away (see HABS photo # KS-53-N-7).

The southeast corner of the 1881 northeast wing also has a limestone foundation. Blocks are ashlar, but of varying sizes and textures, some rough and some smooth. A watertable on this section projects two and a quarter inches. The ashlar foundation on the addition ends abruptly beyond the southeast corner (see HABS photo # KS-53-N-6). The rest of the northeast wing rests on a rubble limestone foundation that emerges never more than eight inches above grade. On the west elevation of the wing, the rubble is covered with a cement veneer. The foundations of the two bay windows on the west and east elevations of the main

block rest on brick foundations, covered with a lime-based stucco (see HABS photo # KS-53-N-1).

3. Walls: The walls of the main block are orange-colored brick, laid in common bond. All thicknesses average eighteen inches (see HABS photo # KS-53-N-5). The northeast wing is constructed of brick colored a deep red and laid also in common bond. Thickness of the wing averages about a foot.
4. Structural system, framing: The main block has load-bearing masonry exterior and interior walls, both of which support a wooden frame on each floor composed of joists and beams.

In the attic is a notable surviving example in this region of a pegged wooden roof structure. Six, 9 1/2" x 9 1/2" posts stand on 12" x 5 1/2" plates and are located in pairs at the east and west ends of the attic and at the center. The posts support four beams running east-west and three beams running north-south. Two reinforcing beams link the mid-points of the two pairs of east-west beams. The beams in turn support the rafters of the roof (see HABS photo # KS-53-N-10).

The joinery of the roof structure is a combination of notching and wooden pegs. The beams and 7 1/2" x 6" braces running between beam and post for reinforcement are held in place by notching and eight to ten inch long pegs hammered through post and beam or brace. The pegs measure one to one and a quarter inches in diameter and originally were all pointed (see HABS photo # KS-53-N-11 & 12).

The rafters measure 4" x 7 1/4" and the joists in the attic are 9" x 5 1/2". All wooden elements of the roof structure except the decking boards are rough hewn and appear to date to 1839.

5. Porches: The principal porches, dating largely from c. 1855-56, are attached to the facade. Measuring 8' 3" x 50' 3" the two-tiered verandahs rest on four, square brick piers, which may be original; rough hewn joists and beams joined by notching still support the first floor porch. Above, four regularly spaced posts resting on pedestals support each verandah. All but one of the eight posts have the 1855-56 pattern of widely spaced flutes on the shafts and square astragals, echinuses, and abacuses constituting capitals. The southwest post of the second story has a simpler treatment of chamfered corners and thus is a replacement, probably of the 1870's or early 1880's. The c. 1855-56 balustrade survives on the first and second stories, running between the pedestals of the posts. A distinctive design of

machine-cut patterns appears in the boards composing the balustrade; there is a rail with multiple rounded moldings. The present front stairway dates to the 1890's; the balustrade is more recent, added between 1905 and 1915. The machine-cut pattern is similar to that of the 1850's balustrade. The floors and ceilings of the facade verandahs are all tongue and groove, replacements from c. 1905-15 (see HABS photo # KS-53-N-1 & 2).

The rear verandahs are also two-tiered and date in their present form to about 1881, the year the frame first story addition was removed and the brick northeast wing added (see PART I--"Alterations and Additions"). Four posts carry the floor and roof structure of the first and second floors. The east end posts on both levels and the two central posts on the second story are square in shape, with chamfered edges and date to the 1880's. Two astragal moldings have been removed from the neck of each. The remaining supports are simple, five and a quarter inch posts, replacements installed in the twentieth century. A simple balustrade on the second level consists of rail and board balusters, possibly of the 1880's. A balustrade made up of horizontal boards and posts of more recent date runs across the first level. There are two stairways from the rear yard to the first story porch, one at the east side, the other at center, opposite the rear entrance to the main block. A two-flight stairway with landing probably built in the 1880's descends from a hole cut in the floor of the second level to the first floor; posts and balusters match those of other 1880's structures of the exterior of the house. The whole porch structure rests on a red brick foundation laid in common bond and dating to the early twentieth century. The foundation rises about five to six feet high (see HABS photo # KS-53-N-4).

6. Chimneys: The original 1839 twin chimneys with connecting parapets on the east and west ends of the main block were replaced, probably in the mid-20th century, with the present rectangular brick shafts with sheet metal hoods. The parapets have disintegrated and have been partially rebuilt with red brick of a different tone, texture, and bond than the original (see HABS photo # KS-53-N-1).

7. Openings:

- a. Doorways and doors: There are two entrances on the facade, located in the central bay of the first and second stories and corresponding to each of the quarters. Both the present entries were installed between 1905 and 1915. The first floor entrance

consists of two doorways flanking a central section composed of six recessed panels with upraised surfaces. Above each doorway is a three-light transom. The two doors are of the same pattern: a four-light window over four panels matching those in the fixed section between the doorways. The second story entry is a single entrance, consisting of side lights on either side of a central doorway. Two lights at each side surmount two panels. Over each of the side lights is a seven-light transom; over the doorway is a three-light transom. The door is the same as below. Above both entryways is a flared stone lintel resembling the flat arches of gauged bricks over the windows on either side (see HABS photo # KS-53-N-2).

On the rear elevation, the two central entries and flanking windows have flat arches constructed of gauged brick. The transoms of the doorways have multiple muntins forming a pattern of rectangles, added possibly in the 1890's (a similar transom was placed over the first floor entrance of the facade in the 1890's and removed in c. 1905-15). The doors of the rear elevation contain six lights over six square panels with upraised surfaces. There are entries from the northeast wing onto each level of the rear porch. The heads over the doorway are composed of two-tiered header brick courses. The first floor door is an 1870's pattern with two glazed vertical panels over two vertical panels with upraised surfaces. The second floor door is a c. 1905 pattern--two vertical lights over two vertical panels (see HABS photo # KS-53-N-4). There is a c. 1905-15 doorway to the basement at the south end of the west elevation. The head is made of gauged bricks stuccoed over; the jamb of the door is recessed eight inches into the foundation. The door is a c. 1905 pattern--six lights over three horizontal panels with upraised surfaces. Undoubtedly a window originally, the doorway was probably cut between 1905 and 1915, when the interior stairway to the basement was removed.

- b. Windows: Originally, all windows of the main block had flared flat arches composed of gauged brick. Most of the flat arches survive. On the facade, the only original window sash pattern to survive is that of the two, second floor windows on either side of the entry. Although the present materials may be replacements, the original pattern of a six over six double hung sash central window flanked by two over two double

hung sash side lights has been preserved (see HABS photo # KS-53-N-5). Before 1905 the central bay was a window of the same pattern.

The two side windows of the first floor of the facade date to probably the 1870's (see Supplemental Material, Item # 3). The present, central windows are floor length and triple hung, each sash containing two vertical panes. The side lights are composed of single panes in each sash. The change from the original six over six double hung sash pattern was made to permit direct access to the verandah from the southwest and southeast rooms of the first floor (see HABS photo # KS-53-N-2).

In the original basement plan, there were four windows below the facade porches, two on the west elevation, two on the east, and one at the rear. The bay windows added in the 1870's cover two 1830's windows completely. Four of the original windows, consisting of twelve over twelve, double hung sashes, survive in recognizable form (see HABS # KS-53-N-7).

There is a six over six double hung sash window approximately in the center of the second story of both the west and east elevations (see HABS # KS-53-N-1 & 2). The attic windows in the two gables are now boarded. Inside, the original 1839, twelve over twelve sashes survive, intact in every respect but glazing (see HABS # KS-53-N-9).

On the rear elevation of the main block, there are two, three-section windows on the first floor flanking the central entryway. These were formerly floor length, but were shortened in the twentieth century. The central windows are six over six; the side lights contain two over two double hung lights. The windows above, on the second story are six over six, double-hung sash (see HABS # KS-53-N-4).

The 1870's bay windows on the east and west elevations are wood frame in construction and stand on a brick foundation. Each of the six, rectangular facets of the projecting bay contains two over two double hung sash windows. There are ovolo moldings between each facet and horizontal recessed panels below each window. Two, two-light windows appear in the foundations of each bay; above the facets is a box cornice with crown molding and a pyramidal roof (see HABS # KS-53-N-1 & 2).

The bays on the northeast wing are irregularly spaced and vary on each story of all three elevations. The south facade of the addition simulates the patterns of the main block's facade: three section windows appear on both floors. On the other hand, the central windows are four over four double hung sash and the window heads are rectangular stone lintels. All other window heads in the northeast wing are composed of segmentally arched double courses of header bricks. All window sashes in the east, north, and west elevations are six over six (see HABS # KS-53-N-3).

8. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: The main block has a gable roof, the ridge of which runs east-west. The north and south porch roofs are shed continuations of the main roof. The northeast addition has a hipped roof. Standing seam sheet metal covers all roofs of Building # 17.
- b. Cornices: A frieze with ovolo moldings surmounted by a crown molding appears along the cornice of the facade verandah (see HABS photo # KS-53-N-2); plain fascia boards serve the purpose on the rear elevation. There is no cornice along the main roof per se. Box gutters line the roof of the northeast wing.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans:

- a. Basement: According to an 1875 report of the Surgeon General of the Army on the commanding officer's residence, the "kitchen, storerooms etc." were in the basement (p. 275). An 1866 ground floor plan of the building shows a plan nearly identical to those of the upper stories: a central hall flanked by two rooms on either side. The hall widened at the back to allow space for an interior stairway. North of the main block was a long room on the west side with six windows and central exit, possibly a summer porch and a smaller rectangular room, perhaps a storeroom.

The kitchen may have been in the northwest room, nearest to the stairway leading up to the dining rooms of both quarters. The partition wall between the southwest and northwest rooms has been removed, as has the interior stairway in the central corridor. The northeast and southeast rooms are more finished, with

trim, plaster, chair rail, etc., and may have been sleeping rooms for staff officers or servants. The northeast storeroom seen in the 1866 plan was closed off when the northeast addition was built.

- b. First floor: The first floor plan provides a complete field officer's quarters on a single floor. The original plan of Col. Kearny has been changed only slightly: the stairway to the second story and basement has been removed at the northwest corner of the central entry hall and replaced with a bathroom and closet. The stairway to the second floor quarters now occupies the west hall of the south end of the entry hall. Otherwise, the room arrangement remains the same. To the east, the central hall communicates with the parlor to the southeast and the dining room to the northeast. To the west it connects with the southwest and northwest bedrooms. The rear entrance offers access to the north verandah. The northeast addition is composed of four sections: the library to the east of the dining room; butler's pantry north of the dining room; kitchen north of the pantry; and servant's room and bath at the north end.
 - c. Second floor plan: The plan of 22 Sumner is nearly identical to that of 20. The stairway from below is located at the center of a U-shaped stair hall, rather than at the south end. In all other respects, the circulation pattern and room designation are the same.
 - d. Attic: The attic is a single room, covering the entire main block, with a height from floor to the roof ridge of over thirteen feet. Originally, the attic served as servants' quarters (see Surgeon General's Office, "A Report on the Hygiene. . .," p. 275). The attic is unfinished and appears to remain substantially in its nineteenth century state (see HABS photo # KS-53-N-10).
2. Stairways: There are none in 20 Sumner. The entrance stairway to 22 Sumner is enclosed and rises a single flight. The baseboard, risers, and treads are painted black; a molded rail supported by plain wrought iron brackets runs along the west wall. A balustrade composed of molded rail and balusters turned on a lathe lines the east and south sides of the U-shaped stairwell. Newel posts at each corner of the balustrade are square with chamfered corners and surmounted by a large bulbous knob on a pedestal.
 3. Flooring: The floors are wood and uniform throughout both

floors of the main block. The narrow width of floor boards (slightly over two inches) implies a date in the 1890's or early twentieth century. All floors in the northeast wing have been covered by a post-World War II synthetic covering. An exception is the two libraries, the floors of which appear to be the same as those of the main block.

4. Wall and ceiling finish: All walls and ceilings in the main block are covered with plaster and lathe. There is a c. 1970's suspended ceiling in the butler's pantry of 20 Sumner, as well as a recent dry wall partition between the new breakfast room and kitchen.

5. Openings:

- a. Doorways and Doors: Both the trim and doors differ in the main block portions of 20 and 22 Sumner. In 20, all doorways of the original quarters have the original trim: the surround moldings are composed of a series of deep grooves, or routing. The corners of the heads each consist of two rectangular moldings, one within the other, and a flat, square, upraised surface at center. The rectilinearity of the trim design and moldings within each other may be an interpretation of Greek fretwork patterns, popular during the 1830's. The doors in the main section of 20 Sumner are also uniform and probably original. A double "christian" pattern characterizes each; the stiles and rails are arranged in a configuration resembling two Latin crosses, one over the other.

The trim patterns in the original portion of 22 Sumner are different than those of 20. The main trim design, appearing on all but the northeast wing doorways, consists of (from the outside) a five inch ovolo molding, two and a half inch flat surface, a quarter inch flat surface, one and an eighth inch, inwardly slanting band, a joint, and an 11/16 inch flat surface. The age of this trim is not known, although it is probably post-Civil War. A secondary trim dating probably to 1881 is that on the doorways to the library and butler's pantry. Here (from the outside) a bead molding, flat surface, cyma recta molding, and flat surface are seen.

The doors pertaining to the main trim pattern of 22 Sumner are unusual in their present surface treatment. The doors have a conventional, mid-nineteenth century or later pattern of rails and stiles: a Latin cross over two vertical, recessed panels with beaded edges.

They are unconventional in that on one side (stairhall side of the doors along the hall), the panel surfaces are flush with the rails and stiles, as if either the outer surface had been planed away or half the door were missing. The other side of these doors have the usual surface of projections and recessions. The two doors from the dining room to the library and pantry are of a later, c. 1881 pattern: three vertical, recessed panels with upraised surfaces over three vertical recessed panels, with cyma reversa moldings lining all panels.

The trim of the doorways of both floors of the northeast wing consists of simple boards, except for the twin doorways leading from the butler's pantry to the kitchen of 22 Sumner; there the moldings match those of the dining room to the library and pantry. The doorway trim in the basement is of a pattern similar to the main pattern in 22 Sumner or to several of the 1870's patterns in 14 Sumner: (from outside) flat surface, joint, flat surface, bevel, splayed surface. Surviving interior doors are mostly of board and batten construction and may be of pre-Civil War date.

- b. Windows: All window trim in the main portion of 20 Sumner matches the grooved molding pattern of the doorways. The three-section windows in the north walls of the dining room and northwest bedroom once were floor length; now a frame and plaster wainscoting occupies the space below the shortened openings.

The bay windows added in the 1870's to the west and east sides of the buildings adjoin the parlor and southwest bedroom of 20 Sumner. The projections occur just north of the fireplaces in each room. There is a frieze above each facet of the window containing simple horizontal rectangles lined by ovolo moldings. The same molding runs between each window of the bay.

The trim of the three-section windows on the facade of 22 Sumner resembles that of the interior side of the entrance to the porch (installed c. 1905-15) and thus may date to the same period. The muntins of the windows have the concave-convex-concave molding typical of the early twentieth century. All other window trim in the main section of 22 is plain with a bead molding at the outer edge.

The window trim in the central bathrooms and northeast

wings of both 20 and 22 are nearly the same. The bath windows have a simple board trim, as do all windows in the kitchens and former servants' rooms. The three-sectioned, south windows of the libraries have alternating cyma reversa and cyma recta moldings lining the trim of the central window. The main surround trim matches that of the doorways to the libraries. The doorway trim pattern is seen also in the east windows of the libraries and the butler's pantries. The basement window trim is the same as the doorways; several reveals are deeply splayed.

6. Decorative features:

- a. Fireplaces: There are mantels in each of the four main rooms of both 20 and 22 Sumner (a total of eight). They appear to be pre-Civil War and may well date to 1838-39. A single mantel pattern was used, derived from the simplicity and rectilinear qualities of the Greek Revival style then popular. The wooden mantels consist of two pilasters with plain shafts, plinths, frieze and capitals supporting architraves divided from the main frieze by a single, upraised wooden band. Above the friezes are projecting shelves. The facings and fireboxes are composed of early twentieth century common brick; the hearths have been replaced, probably in the early years of the century, by glazed brick (see HABS photo # KS-53-N-8). The parlor mantel of 20 Sumner is unpainted walnut; all the others are painted a cream color to match the walls. One firebox is bricked-in, that of the parlor in 22 Sumner. The four fireplaces of the basement all have been closed. In the attic the chimney shafts are visible; a closed stove pipe opening is visible in at least one of the four.
- b. Cabinetry: The butler's pantries of both quarters have built-in wooden sideboards, china cabinets, and tableware drawers. The patterns are the same as those installed in officer's quarters between 1900 and 1910 and thus probably date to that decade.
- c. Other trim: A uniform picture molding composed of ovolo molding, flat surface, and cyma recta molding is found in all rooms of both 20 the 22 Sumner except the central bathrooms and the rooms in the northeast wing north of the libraries. The baseboard patterns in 20 and 22 differ slightly from each other. In 20, a foot high board composed of alternating convex and concave moldings a flat slanting surface appears in all rooms

of the main block. In 22, a simpler, ten and a half inch high baseboard composed of a pattern matching in part that of the main door trim pattern occurs in all rooms of the main section.

7. Hardware: Virtually all door hardware belongs to the early twentieth century: mortise locks, smooth rectangular brass plates and smooth knobs, and plain hinges. There are rim locks on the board and batten doors of the basement.
8. Mechanical equipment: All rooms of both 20 and 22 Sumner are heated by steam radiators manufactured by the American Radiator Co. The cast-iron "Rorodee" model used is the same installed in most officer's quarters during the first decade of this century and feature elaborate naturalistic and foliated moldings, as well as the shell motif and volutes. A bun-warmer compartment appears in the dining room radiator of each floor. In the basement is a Weil-McLain furnace, installed after World War II.

D. Site:

The former Post Commander's Residence was located in 1838 facing south on the north edge of the Main Parade, offering a clear view of the parade and troops conducting reviews and exercises (see HABS photo # KS-53-14). Originally, log quarters flanked Building # 17 to the west and east. The north side of the parade was "officer's row;" infantry barracks lined the west side, cavalry barracks the east side, and stables the south. After the Civil War, the log quarters gradually were replaced by field grade officer's quarters on the north and east sides of the parade. Since then, Building # 17 has assumed a new identity as double field officer quarters, continuing a use in harmony with its neighbors.

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

A. Original Architectural Drawings:

Pre-Civil War water color of elevation and plan, RG 77, Cartographic Division, National Archives.

B. Early Views:

1. Plans:

"Ground Plan of Quarters at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas." Fort Leavenworth: Post Quartermaster, August, 1866.

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[Cartographic Division, National Archives (NA), Record Group (RG) 77, Fortification File, Fort Leavenworth, Drawing # 200.

2. Bird's Eye Views, sketches:

Johnson, 1st Lt. A. R. "A Map of Fort Leavenworth, and Its Reserve." Fort Leavenworth, 1839. [Cart. Div., NA, RG 77, Fortif. File, Drawing # 131, Sheet 5].

Dammeier, Wilhelm. "Bird's Eye View of Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, 1881." Fort Leavenworth: Department of the Missouri, 1881.

3. Photographs:

South elevation of Building 17, 1869, Fort Leavenworth Museum photograph collection, # 69.31-6003.37 (38).

North side of Main Parade seen from the east, c. 1865-70, Fort Museum, # 69.6003.37 (IV) 1890 (4).

View of Post Commander's Residence seen from the southwest, c. 1878-81. Fort Museum, uncatalogued photograph collection.

"Officers' Quarters--N. E. corner Main Parade," c. 1895. Fort Museum, #69.29--6003.37 (46).

View of Building 17 from the southwest, c. 1905. Fort Museum, "Building 17" Quartermaster Inventory Card, in Hollinger box labeled "QMGO Plans Buildings # 1-94.

View of Building 17 from southeast, c. 1915. "Building 17" Quartermaster Inventory card, in Hollinger box labeled "QMGO Plan Buildings # 1-94," Fort Museum.

C. Bibliography:

1. Primary and unpublished sources:

Kearny, Col. Stephen W. to Maj. T. Cross, [Acting] Quartermaster General, October 18, 1836, Consolidated Correspondence File (CCF), Records of the Quartermaster General (RQM), National Archives and Records Service (NA), Record Group (RG) 92, Box 539.

Kearny, S. W. to T. Cross, July 21, 1837, CCF, RQM, NA, RG 92, Box 539.

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Swords, Thomas, Assistant Quartermaster [Fort Leavenworth] to Maj T. Cross, Acting Quartermaster General, August 5, 1837, CCF, RQM, NA, RG 92, Box 539.

Linett [?], B. A., Assistant Quartermaster to Maj. T. Cross, April 15, 1838, CCF, RQM, NA, RG 92, Box 539.

2. Secondary and published sources:

Barry, Louise. The Beginning of the West: Annals of the Kansas Gateway to the American West 1540-1854. Topeka: Kansas State Historical Society, 1972.

Carr, E. T. "Reminiscences Concerning Fort Leavenworth in 1855-56," Collections of the Kansas State Historical Society, XII (1911-12), pp. 375-83.

Hunt, Elvid. History of Fort Leavenworth: 1827-1927. Fort Leavenworth: The General Service Schools Press, 1926.

Lowe, Percival G. Five Years a Dragoon ('49 to '54) and Other Adventures on the Great Plains. Kansas City, Missouri: The Franklin Hudson Publishing Co., 1906.

U. S. War Department. Surgeon General's Office. A Report on Barracks and Hospitals with Descriptions of Military Posts [Circular No. 4]. Washington: Govt. Print. Office, 1870.

_____. A Report on the Hygiene of the U. S. Army, with Descriptions of Military Posts [Circular No. 8]. Washington: Govt. Print. Office, 1875.

E. Likely Sources Not Yet Investigated:

Leavenworth, Kansas newspapers from 1854 to 1920 may contain additional information on the remodelings of Building 17. Available at the Leavenworth Public Library.

Additional correspondence or documents regarding the remodelings of Building 17 in c. 1855-56, 1870's, 1881, 1890's, and c. 1905-15 may exist in the Consolidated Correspondence File, Records of the Quartermaster General, National Archives and Record Service, Washington, Record Group 92, Box 539.

F. Supplemental Material: See attached.

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Historic American Buildings Survey

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September, 1985

PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

This project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey of the National Park Service in agreement with the post command at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas and the headquarters of the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Washington, D. C. The project was completed under the general supervision of Robert J. Kapsch, Chief of the HABS/HAER Division. Sally Kress Tompkins, Deputy Chief of HABS/HAER, served as Program Coordinator and Robie S. Lange, HABS Historian, as Project Leader. The Field Supervisor was James A. Glass (historian, Cornell University); the project historians were Judith E. Hunt (University of Missouri, St. Louis) and Kristie D. Struble (University of Virginia).

F. Supplemental Material

1. Summer Place, north
Parade Grounds, circa. 1865-70

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Summer Place 1865-1870 North

Parade Grounds

69.31

6003.37(ND) 1892

2. Parade Grounds, north, 1869

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(1) 6981(N) <E'5009

1869



Parade Grounds North 1869 69.31 6003.37 (28)

3. View from Building # 17,
circa. 1878-81

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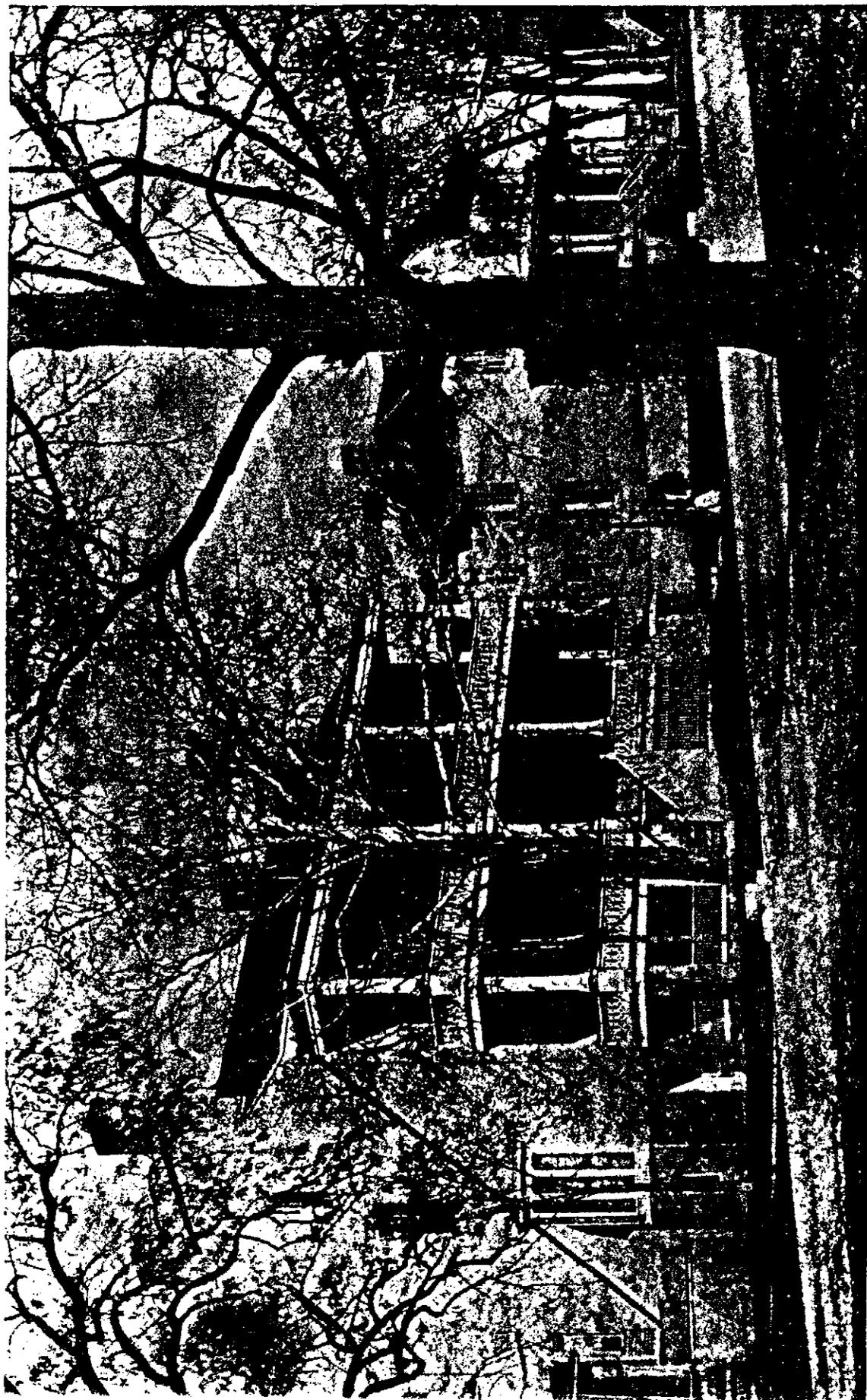
Quarters--north side garrison parade grounds.

69.31

6003.375(41)

4. View of Building # 17 from the southwest, circa. 1878-81

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5. View of Building # 17 from the
6003.37 (46) circa. 1895



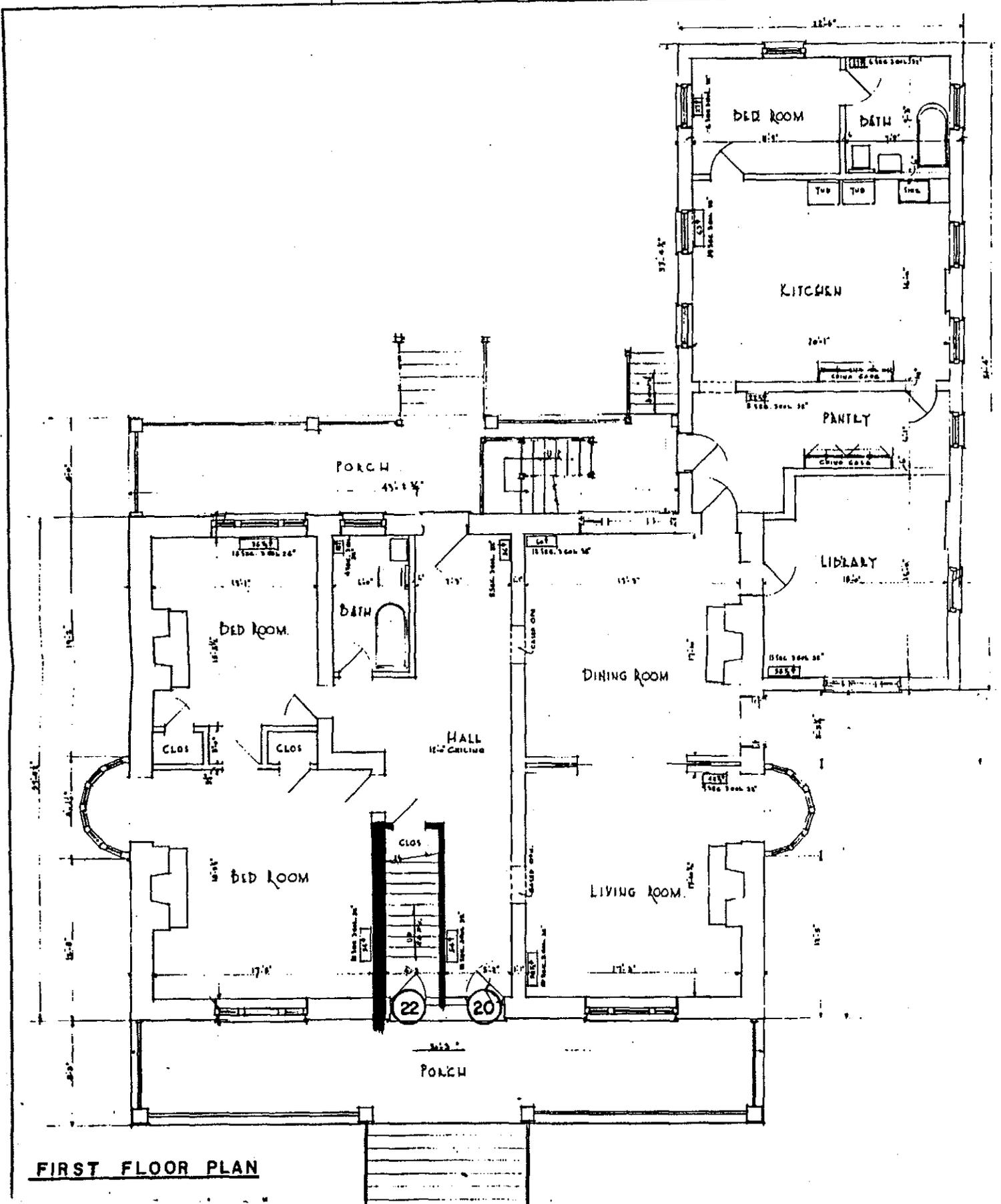
OFFICERS' QUARTERS - N. E. CORNER MAIN PARADE.

69.29 . 6003.37 (46)

Probably
1895

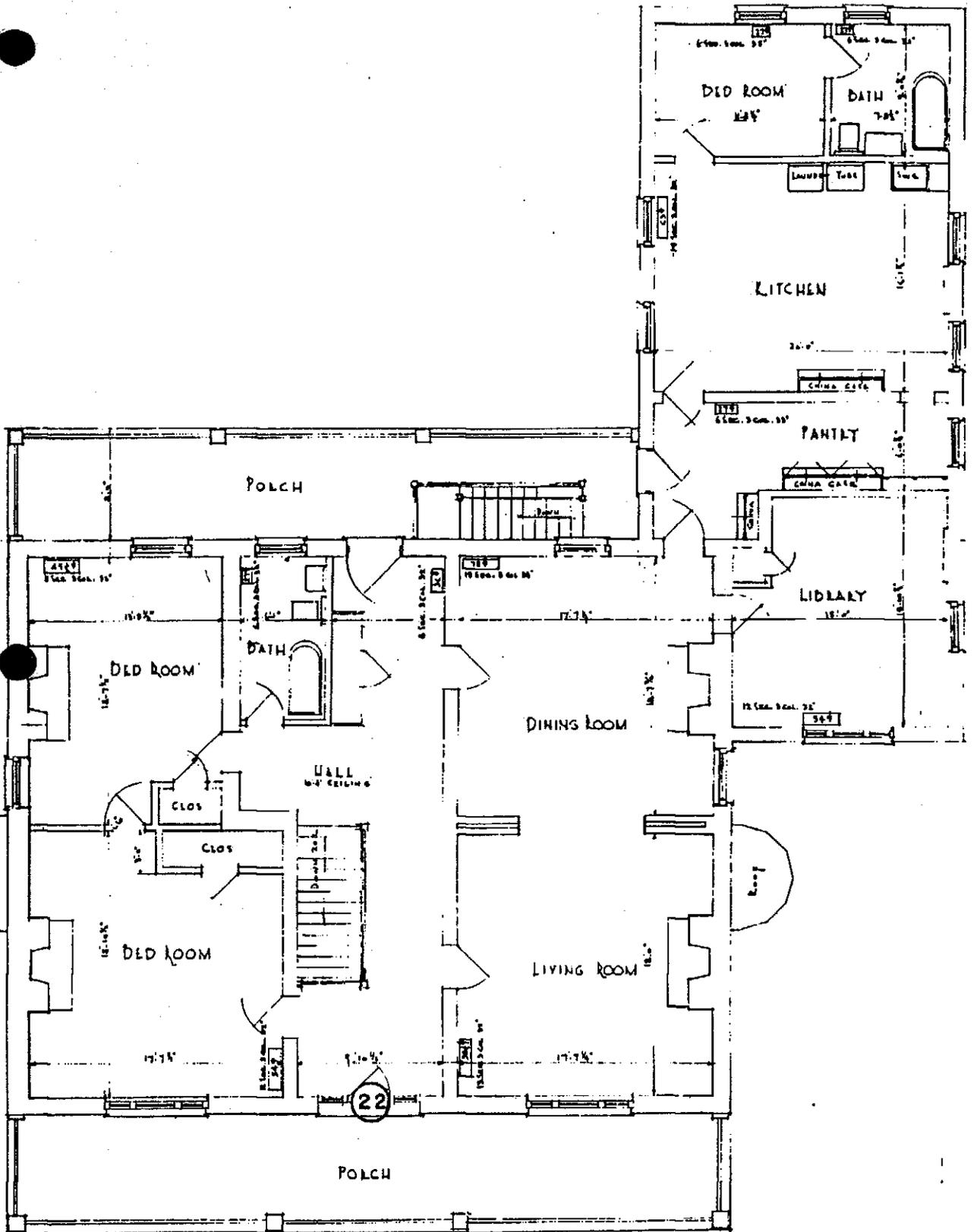
6. First floor plan

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7. Second floor plan

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SECOND FLOOR PLAN

BLDG. NO. 17 20-22 SUMNER PLACE

OFFICE OF THE FACILITIES ENGINEER
 FORT LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS

DRAWN BY:
 CHECKED BY:
 EXAMINED BY:
 APPROVED:

TYPICAL FLOOR PLAN NO.

FI